WVU Outdoor Recreation Center
Winter Break: Big Bend 17/18

This winter break trip is a great way to get away and explore some amazing areas of the desert southwest. The trip runs for 11 days, and includes visits to three different National Parks and Monuments: Big Bend NP, Guadalupe NP and Carlsbad Caverns NP. This is a multidimensional trip that includes several different recreation activities. Some of these activities include: backcountry camping, backpacking, caving, and day hikes. Although this trip takes place in desert environments, it will be the middle of winter so there is still the possibility of snow and below freezing temperatures.

Alcohol is not permitted during the trip due to safety and respect concerns. Although showers are available at some sites, there will not be showers every day of the trip.

Total Cost of Trip $625

The cost includes: Instruction, Camping fees, Park entrance fees, Backcountry fees, transportation, trip gear, and food (road dinners and one dinner out are the participants’ responsibility – total 5 dinners).

(Extra money for eating out, road drinks, and souvenirs is recommended.)

Philosophy
The Outdoor Recreation trips program is focused on getting people outside to explore new places, gain skills, meet new people, and have fun. Skills and safety instruction are an integral part of every trip so that risks can be decreased and participants can participate actively in the trip and can go on their own trips in the future. Trips are offered to give WVU students, faculty, staff and their families a chance to gain experience in a variety of outdoor activities while exploring beautiful environments.

Risks
The staff at the WVU ORC is proud of their attention to risk management; however, we acknowledge that outdoor recreation/adventure activities have inherent risks associated with them. We make every effort to mitigate these risks; however, we cannot ensure participant safety or eliminate these risks.

Previous Experience
Experience in adventure recreation activities is not required. This trip is designed for beginners, so no experience is necessary, although participants should expect to work at gaining proper skills for the activity. The Winter Break trip includes activities with medium physical difficulty and beginner to intermediate skill level. This is due to the nature of the environment (backpacking in 6000 feet high mountains and camping during the winter – temperatures will likely dip to below freezing at night and there could be snow and cold during the day).
Pre-trip Meeting
We are going to have a series of pre-trip meetings where we will discuss the skills and equipment needed in the outdoors. **The pre-trip meetings are mandatory for all participants.** This is to ensure that everyone is prepared. Topics covered will include:

- Trip Itinerary
- Equipment (tents, stoves, etc.)
- Group dynamics and team work
- Participant expectations
- Emergency procedures
- ORC policies
- Paperwork
- Safety
- Basic skills
- Clothing
- Food and Cooking

**All meetings are mandatory!!!!**
If you miss a meeting you must reschedule the time to get information from the trip leaders, otherwise you will forfeit your spot on the trip and lose your money.

**Big Bend Winter Break Trip 2017-2018**

**IMPORTANT DATES!!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/12/17</td>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>4 pm</td>
<td>ORC</td>
<td>Pre-trip Meeting #1: Introductions, gear list, itinerary, etc, 1 hour long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/03/17</td>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>12 pm</td>
<td>ORC</td>
<td>Pre-trip Meeting #2: Personal gear check, gear instruction, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/26/17</td>
<td>Tue.</td>
<td>12-4pm</td>
<td>ORC</td>
<td>Pre-trip Meeting #3: Drop-off bin/pack trailer/organize gear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/27/17</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>6 am</td>
<td>ORC</td>
<td>Meet to depart for trip (anyone late will be left behind)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/06/18</td>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>midnight</td>
<td>ORC</td>
<td>Return from trip</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1/07/18  | Sun.   | 1pm- 3pm | ORC      | Clean up group equipment                                              
|          |        |         |          | Turn in borrowed ORC personal gear                                   |
Big Bend Winter Break Trip 2017-2018

Itinerary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Daily Itinerary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Tue. 12/26</td>
<td>12p-4p Pre-trip Meeting #3/drop-off bins/pack trailer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wed. 12/27</td>
<td>Leave for Texas at 6am/Camp in Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thur. 12/28</td>
<td>Drive to Big Bend/Camp at Rio Grande Village CG/arrive late!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fri. 12/29</td>
<td>Group 1-prep and BP day 1 Chisos. Group 2-Day Hike RGV CG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sat 12/30</td>
<td>Group 1 – BP day 2 Chisos. Group 2 - Day hike/prepare for backcountry Chisos CG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sun. 12/31</td>
<td>Group 1 – BP day 3 Chisos (out), camp Chisos CG. Group 2 - Day 1 BP in Chisos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mon. 1/01</td>
<td>Group 1- Day Hike Chisos CG. Group 2 -Day 2 BP in Chisos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tue 1/02</td>
<td>Group 1 – Day Hike, Chisos CG. Group 2 Day 3 BP in Chisos (out) Chisos CG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Wed 1/03</td>
<td>Leave Big Bend/drive to Guadalupe Mtns NP Guad. CG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Thur 1/04</td>
<td>Short Hike &amp; Cave Trip @ Carlsbad Caverns Guad CG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Fri 1/05</td>
<td>Drive – camp in Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Sat 1/06</td>
<td>Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Sun. 1/07</td>
<td>Clean – 1-3p (ORC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Schedule is subject to change**

Equipment:
Due to the ever-changing weather and the variety of environments we will be traveling through, we must require everyone have certain equipment. This is personal equipment that we cannot supply. One of the trip leaders must inspect it before the trip. There is a specific list of gear attached to this packet.
Feel free to check out the following websites, related to our trip.

**Big Bend National Park**
http://www.nps.gov/bibe/
http://www.big.bend.national-park.com/hike.htm#back

We will be day hiking here and camping two nights at the Rio Grande Village and three nights at Chisos Basin Campground. We will also be spending 2-nights in the Chisos Mountains (High Chisos Trails System) during our backpack trip.

**Guadalupe Mountains National Park**
http://www.nps.gov/gumo/

We will be camping two nights at the Pine Springs group campground. Here we have some day hike options depending on weather and wind.

**Carlsbad Caverns National Park**
http://www.nps.gov/cave

We will drive north from Guadalupe Mountains National Park into New Mexico to explore the giant stalagmites and stalactites in Carlsbad Caverns NP, where the annual cave climate is 56°F (13°C)!
WVU ORC Gear List
Moderate/Cold Weather Extended Trip
Winter Break 2017-2018

The following list is what you are responsible for bringing on the trip. These items are necessary in order to be prepared for your outdoor experience. You will need clothing for backpacking and camping for 11 days in moderate to cold weather. If you do not have a specific item, let the trip leader know at the pre-trip meetings and he/she will try to find something appropriate from our borrowed clothes bin, which is a limited selection.

There is limited room in our trailer so you will not be able to bring more than can fit into an 18 gallon Tupperware container and a carry-on day pack.

Head
☐ Toboggan/beanie/winter hat (wool or synthetic)
☐ Brimmed hat (for sun protection)

Upper Body
☐ 3-4 T-shirts
☐ 2 mid-heavyweight synthetic long undershirts · polypropylene, or other hydrophobic, wicking fabric
☐ 2-3 Medium to heavyweight pile jacket /wool sweater
☐ Wind Jacket · nylon (can be same as rain jacket if waterproof/breathable · must fit over insulating layers)
☐ 1 pair gloves

Lower Body
☐ Underwear as needed
☐ 2 pair of loose fitting shorts
☐ 2 Medium to heavy weight Synthetic/Wool long underwear bottoms · polypropylene, or other hydrophobic, wicking fabric
☐ 1 pair long pants/ wind pants, loose fitting – synthetic materials (No jeans · take too long to dry)
☐ 2 pair Medium weight Synthetic/Wool pants

Feet
☐ 1 pair of running shoes or sneakers: For around campsite and van travel
☐ 6 pairs of medium weight wool/synthetic hiking socks: Wool keeps your feet warm even when wet and gives good cushioning. The higher the wool content of the socks the better (we recommend 85% wool, 15% nylon).
☐ 1 pair medium-heavyweight hiking boots or other sturdy trail shoes for backpacking
Rain Gear
- Waterproof rain jacket · coated nylon or waterproof/breathable fabric
- Waterproof rain pants or rain chaps · coated nylon or waterproof/breathable fabric
  (Optional)

Miscellaneous
- 1 18 gallon plastic storage bin (Rubbermaid Roughneck are great) to store all your gear during the trip
- 2 1-quart water bottles or canteens
- 1 unbreakable cup with handle
- 1 unbreakable bowl
- 1 spoon, fork, knife
- 1-2 bandannas: multipurpose
- 1 flashlight (headlamp suggested) with fresh batteries
- 1 set of extra batteries
- 1 small towel
- 1 toilet kit: Just the essentials, toothbrush and toothpaste, sunscreen, lip balm, feminine products.
- 1 heavy plastic garbage bag · for sleeping bag & clothing
- 1 pair of sunglasses
- 1 pair glasses. Please bring an eyeglass safety strap for your glasses or they will be lost.
- Any medications you will need to take during the trip (allergy medications etc.).
- 1 waterproof camera (Optional)

WVU Outdoor Recreation will provide the following personal gear for the trip, but you may bring your own if you have them.
- Sleeping Bag – 4-season winter bag
- Sleeping pad
- Backpack

WVU Outdoor Recreation is providing the following group gear. Please do not bring your own.
- Tents
- Tarps
- Stoves
- Food and water containers
- Pots, Pans, and Utensils
- Coolers
- Water Purification